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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF J. DUNCAN CUNNINGHAM TO THE NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

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OTTAWA (May 24, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the appointment of Mr. J. Duncan Cunningham to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB).

"Mr. Cunningham has expertise working with the institutions and structures created by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement," said Minister Prentice. "With his background, I'm certain he will prove to be an effective member of the Nunavut Impact Review Board."

Mr. Cunningham has acted in several senior management capacities and has worked closely with organizations that have contributed to all segments of Nunavut's economy.

Since 2003, he has worked as President and General Manager of Innirvik Support Services Limited. His earlier positions include: Director of Sustainable Development (Baffin/Qikiqtani Region) for the Government of Nunavut, Chief Executive Officer of Nunavut Tusaavut Inc., Vice-chairman of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Executive Director of the Baffin (Qikiqtani) Region Inuit Association.

The NIRB is the institution created by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to protect the integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area ecosystem and promote the well being of its residents. The NIRB screens, reviews and assesses projects and activities in Nunavut that may have environmental and socio-economic impacts. The Board conducts its work in collaboration with government, Inuit and communities, and makes recommendations on impact reviews to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The NIRB has nine members. Four members are nominated by Inuit organizations, two members are nominated by the Government of Canada and two members are appointed by the Territorial Government. The chair is appointed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in consultation with the Government of Nunavut.

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Biographical Note - J. Duncan Cunningham

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Biographical Note - J. Duncan Cunningham

Mr. J. Duncan Cunningham is an experienced executive who has lived in Nunavut and in the Northwest Territories for almost 30 years. He specializes in environmental administration, economic development, training, program management and policy planning. In addition, he is very knowledgeable of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Cunningham has worked closely with organizations that have contributed to all segments of Nunavut's economy. His previous positions include: Director of Sustainable Development (Baffin/Qikiqtani Region) for the Government of Nunavut, Chief Executive Officer of Nunavut Tusaavut Inc., Vice-chairman of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Executive Director of the Baffin (Qikiqtani) Region Inuit Association.

Throughout his career, Mr. Cunningham has provided recommendations and advice to Inuit organizations on negotiations and the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. He has also contributed to the organizational structure of the Nunavut Impact Review Board transition team and was involved in the Board's earliest work.

Mr. Cunningham has a Bachelor of Arts from Wilfrid Laurier University, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa, and has completed coursework toward a Master of Arts degree. He currently resides in Pond Inlet, Nunavut.

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